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12 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
13 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

14 In re:

15 USA Commercial Mortgage Company,

16 Debtor.

17 Case No. BK-S-06-10725-LBR

18 Chapter 11

19 **THIRD OMNIBUS OBJECTION OF**
20 **USACM TRUST TO PROOFS OF**
21 **CLAIM BASED ENTIRELY UPON**
22 **INVESTMENT IN THE BUNDY**
23 **CANYON (\$5.725 MILLION) LOAN**

24 Hearing Date: August 30, 2011

25 Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.

26 Estimated Time for Hearing: 10 minutes

16 The USACM Liquidating Trust (the “USACM Trust”) moves this Court, pursuant
17 to § 502 of title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) and
18 Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), for an
19 order disallowing 80% and allowing 20% of each Proof of Claim listed in **Exhibit A**.

20 These claims were filed by investors (“Direct Lenders”) against USA Commercial
21 Mortgage Company (“USACM”) based entirely upon an investment in a loan to Bundy
22 Canyon Land Development, LLC (the “Borrower”). This loan was one of several to the
23 Borrower, and will be referred to here as the “Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan.”

24 This Objection is supported by the Court’s record and the Declarations of Geoffrey L.
25 Berman and Edward M. Burr in Support of Omnibus Objections to Proofs of Claim Based
26 Upon the Investment in the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan. (the “Berman Decl.”
and “Burr Decl.”).

1 THIS OBJECTION DOES NOT RELATE TO AND WILL NOT IMPACT THE
2 DIRECT LENDERS' RIGHTS TO REPAYMENT ON THE BUNDY CANYON (\$5.725
3 MILLION) LOAN, SHARE IN ANY PROCEEDS GENERATED FROM THE SALE OF
4 THE REAL PROPERTY SECURING THE BUNDY CANYON (\$5.725 MILLION)
5 LOAN, OR SHARE IN THE RECOVERY OF ANY FUNDS FROM THE
6 GUARANTOR FOR THE LOAN.

7 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

8 **I. BACKGROUND FACTS**

9 **a. The USACM Bankruptcy**

10 On April 13, 2006 (“Petition Date”), USACM filed a voluntary petition for relief
11 under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtor continued to operate its business as
12 debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
13 Debtor’s post-petition management of the Debtor was under the direction of Thomas J.
14 Allison of Mesirov Financial Interim Management, LLC, who served as the Chief
15 Restructuring Officer.

16 USACM was a Nevada corporation that, prior to the Petition Date, was in the
17 business of underwriting, originating, brokering, funding and servicing commercial loans
18 primarily secured by real estate, both on behalf of investors and for its own account. That
19 business included the solicitation of investors to purchase fractional interest in loans that
20 USACM originated and then serviced. These investors are referred to as “Direct Lenders”
21 in USACM’s bankruptcy case and in this Objection.

22 On January 8, 2007, this Court entered its Order Confirming the “Debtors’ Third
23 Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization” as Modified Herein [Docket No.
24 2376]. As part of the Plan, and pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement filed with this
25 Court, USACM sold the servicing rights to most of the loans it serviced to Compass
26 Partners, LLC and Compass Financial Partners, LLC (“Compass”), including the Bundy
Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan. The sale to Compass closed on February 16, 2007.

1 The USACM Trust exists as of the Effective Date of the Plan, which was March 12,
2 2007. Geoffrey L. Berman is the Trustee. Under the Plan, the USACM Trust is the
3 successor to USACM with respect to standing to seek allowance and disallowance of
4 Claims under 11 U.S.C. § 502(a).

5 Upon information derived from filings in the United States District Court, District
6 of Nevada, *3685 San Fernando Lenders Company, LLC, et al v. Compass USA SPE, LLC,*
7 *et al*, No. 2:07-cv-00892-RCJ-GWF action, the Trust believes that “Silar Advisors, LP
8 (“Silar”) financed Compass’ acquisition of the Purchased Assets, including the loan
9 service agreements in the USACM bankruptcy case and took a secured interest in those
10 Purchased Assets by executing a Master Repurchase Agreement (“Repurchase
11 Agreement”) with Compass, and by filing a UCC-1 financing statement with the State of
12 Delaware.” *Id.* Docket 1250 at 13-14 (citations to declarations omitted).

13 Further, from filings in the same action, the Trust believes that “Effective as of
14 September 26, 2007, Silar foreclosed on Compass through Asset Resolution LLC (“Asset
15 Resolution”) and took ownership of the Purchased Assets. ... Silar created Asset
16 Resolution as a ‘single purpose entity,’ conveyed all of its interests in the Repurchase
17 Agreement to Asset Resolution, and Asset Resolution properly foreclosed on the assets of
18 Compass, including the Purchased Assets.” (Citations omitted.) Asset Resolution LLC is
19 now a debtor in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case pending in Nevada, case no. BK-S-09-32824-
20 RCJ, along with certain affiliates.¹ By Order entered on July 19, 2010 by the Hon. Robert
21 C. Jones in the Asset Resolution Case, the servicing rights for 19 loans were transferred to
22 Cross, FLS. The Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan, was among the loans whose
23 servicing rights were transferred to Cross, FLS.

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25
26

¹ 10 90 SPE LLC, Fiesta Stoneridge LLC, CFP Gramercy SPE LLC, Bundy 2.5 Million SPE LLC, CFP
Cornman Toltec SPE LLC, Bundy Five Million LLC, Fox Hills SPE LLC, HFAH Monaco SPE LLC,
Huntsville SPE LLC, Lake Helen Partners SPE LLC, Ocean Atlantic SPE LLC, CFP, Gess SPE LLC, CFP
Clear Lake SPE LLC, and Shamrock SPE LLC.

1 The Trust has attempted to monitor loan collections through monitoring the district
2 court litigation and the ARC bankruptcy case, but has received limited information
3 concerning servicing and resolution of direct loans by Compass/Silar/Asset Resolution or
4 their successors, including the trustee in bankruptcy for Asset Resolution. The Trust has
5 also been in contract with Cross FLC about certain loans that it is servicing, including the
6 Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan. The following is the extent of the USACM Trust's
7 information on the current servicing and status of the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million)
8 Loan.

9 The following is the extent of the USACM Trust's information on the current
10 servicing and status of the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan.

11 **b. The Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan**

12 USACM circulated an Offer Sheet to prospective Direct Lenders soliciting funding
13 for an acquisition and development loan to a borrower identified as "Bundy Canyon Land
14 Development, LLC." A copy of the Offer Sheet is attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and
15 incorporated by this reference. (Berman Decl., ¶ 4.) The Offer Sheet stated that the
16 Borrower was a joint venture between USA Investment Partners and three individuals,
17 Dave Fogg,² Chris Pederson, and Kevin Everett. *Id.* The total loan amount proposed was
18 \$5,725,000. *Id.* The Offer Sheet described the investment as a "First Trust Deed
19 Investment" and noted that the investment would be secured by a first deed of trust on
20 approximately 60.25 acres of property to be developed into approximately 229 lots,
21 located on Bundy Canyon Road in Riverside County, California near the city of Murietta.
22 *Id.* The loan to value ratio was 49% based on the sell out price for the approved mapped
23 lots.³ *Id.*

24 ² David Fogg's involvement in the transfer of funds between the USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund
25 and USA Investment Partners was addressed in separate litigation. That litigation was settled and which
settlement was approved by this Court.

26 ³ The Trustee has been unable to locate an appraisal for this loan and it does not appear that one was ever
obtained.

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1 On January 14, 2005, Borrower made and delivered to various lenders, including
2 the Direct Lenders identified in **Exhibit A**, a “Promissory Note Secured by Deed of Trust”
3 (the “Note”) and a Loan Agreement (Berman Decl., ¶ 5.) The Note and Loan Agreement
4 provided for a loan of up to \$5,725,000, with an initial loan in the amount of \$1,500,000.
5 *Id.* Pursuant to the Loan Agreement, the loan was intended to acquire the real property
6 and to pay costs of obtaining certain entitlements. *Id.* The Note was secured by a “Deed
7 of Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing” (the “Deed of
8 Trust”) from the Borrower in favor of the Direct Lenders that was recorded in the official
9 records of Riverside County, California on January 19, 2005 at Instrument Number
10 20050362, as were subsequent amendments to the Deed of Trust to secure subsequent loan
11 advances. (Berman Decl. ¶ 5.) The Note was also supported by a guaranty from Tom
12 Hantges and Joseph Milanowski. (Berman Decl., ¶ 6.)

13 The USACM “Loan Summary” dated July 31, 2006 and filed in this case shows
14 that Borrower was “Performing” on the Note as of July 31, 2006 because the dispersing
15 agent held sufficient cash to make interest payments. (Berman Decl., ¶ 7.) Pursuant to the
16 USACM “Loan Summary” dated February 28, 2007 and filed in this case, the Borrower
17 was in “Maturity Default” as of February 28, 2007. During this bankruptcy case through
18 the transfer of servicing to Compass, USACM treated the Direct Lenders with respect to
19 any interim payments by the borrower in accordance with this Court’s orders and the
20 confirmed Plan.

21 Counsel for the Trustee had a brief conversation with a representative of Cross,
22 FLS regarding the status of the Bundy Canyon (\$5.75 Million) Loan. In addition to
23 serving the Bundy Canyon (\$5.75 Million) Loan, Cross, FLS is also serving two others
24 loans to Bundy Canyon that USACM originated. According to Cross, FLS, the Direct
25 Lenders still hold an interest in the collateral that secured the Bundy Canyon
26 (\$5.75 Million) Loan. The property has not been foreclosed on. In addition, significant

1 accrued taxes are owed on the property that serves (or previously served) as collateral for
2 the various Bundy Canyon loans, and those taxes may exceed the value of the collateral.

3 **c. The Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Claims**

4 **Exhibit A**, attached, lists Proofs of Claim filed by Direct Lenders that appear to be
5 based entirely upon an investment in the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan.
6 (Burr Decl. ¶ 7.) **Exhibit A** identifies the Proof of Claim number, the claimant, the
7 claimant's address, the total amount of the claim and the total amount of the claim that
8 appears to be related to an investment in the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan based
9 upon the information provided by the claimant. (Burr Declaration ¶ 7.) The claims
10 listed in **Exhibit A** are referred to hereafter as the "Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million)
11 Claims." As required by Nevada LR 3007, a copy of the first page of the proof of claim
12 for each of the claims referenced in **Exhibit A** are attached as **Exhibit C**.

13 **II. JURISDICTION**

14 The Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and
15 157. Venue is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core
16 proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

17 The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. § 502 and
18 Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

19 **III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY**

20 Under the Bankruptcy Code, any Claim for which a proof of claim has been filed
21 will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof
22 of claim, the Court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the Claim and
23 shall allow the Claim except to the extent that the Claim is "unenforceable against the
24 debtor . . . under any . . . applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is
25 contingent or unmatured." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b). A properly filed proof of claim is
26 presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof
of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of

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1 persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. *See Ashford v. Consolidated*
2 *Pioneer Mortg. (In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.)*, 178 B.R. 222, 226 (9th Cir. B.A.P.
3 1995), *aff'd*, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996).

4 **IV. THE OBJECTION**

5 USA Investment Partners ("USA IP") held an interest in the Borrower and which
6 interest was disclosed on the Offer Sheet described above. As such, and unlike many of
7 the other loans brokered by USACM, the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan was not
8 completely arms' length. However, the Direct Lenders received the first position interest
9 in the collateral securing the loan as promised by the Offer Sheet. In addition, the Direct
10 Lenders took a known risk by investing in a promissory note secured by a lien on real
11 property.

12 USACM is not liable for the Borrower's default but the Trustee recognizes the
13 potential conflict of interest arising from USACM's brokering the loan for an affiliate,
14 being the loan's servicer and then potentially not acting diligently to demand payment
15 from a defaulting borrower. USACM however is not responsible for any decrease in the
16 value of the collateral.

17 In light of the potential conflict of interest, the trustee is prepared to allow a partial
18 claim for the direct lenders that have filed proofs of claim arising from their investment in
19 this (and the related Bundy Canyon loans) in an amount of 20% of the proof of claim. The
20 balance of the direct lender's proof of claim is otherwise objected to as the Direct Lenders
21 fail to state a claim because USACM does not appear to have breached the loan servicing
22 agreements with respect to collection of the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan.
23 USACM was under no duty to foreclose on the collateral securing the Bundy Canyon
24 (\$5.725 Million) Loan or take any other action.

25 This objection will not affect the Direct Lenders' right to be repaid on the Bundy
26 Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan by the Borrower, to recover from the sale of any collateral

1 that secured the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan or share in any funds generated by
2 enforcing the guaranty associated with the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan.

3 **V. CONCLUSION**

4 The USACM Trust respectfully requests that the Court disallow 80% and allow
5 20% of each claim listed in **Exhibit A**. Those claims are based entirely upon an
6 investment in the Bundy Canyon (\$5.725 Million) Loan. The USACM Trust also requests
7 such other and further relief as is just and proper.

8 DATED this 29th day of July, 2011.

9 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP
10

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16 Copy of the foregoing and pertinent
17 portion of Exhibits mailed by first
18 class postage prepaid U.S. Mail on
July 29, 2011 to all parties listed on
19 Exhibit A attached.

20 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

21
22 s/ Matt Burns
23 Matt Burns, Paralegal